

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM AFSCME

What's happening to our nation's health care?

More than 46 million Americans lack health insurance and those who have health insurance are struggling to keep it (U.S. Census Bureau, September 2003). In some hospitals, nurses, doctors and other health care workers are struggling to keep their jobs, because hospitals are threatening to close due to lack of funding. Health care workers and patients are all feeling the effects of dangerous short staffing in hospitals.

Health Care Under the Bush Administration

- Employers are responding to growing cost pressures by shifting costs to workers, especially through larger co-pays and deductibles that must be paid at the time of treatment. (www.consumersunion.org)
- The average cost of a family health plan rose from \$8,000 in 2002 to \$9,000 in 2003 and is expected to exceed \$10,000 this year. (*The Washington Post*, 9/30/03)
- Bush opposes measures to lower prescription drug costs. He signed a Medicare prescription drug law that forbids Medicare from negotiating lower prices. (Hewitt Associates, H.R. 1, S. 1)

President Bush has no solution to fix our nation's health care crisis and has no plan to prevent more workers from joining the uninsured.

**AMERICA'S
HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM
needs to be
fixed.**

Call President Bush at 202-456-1111 and urge him to create policies that will insure Americans and provide more funding for our health care facilities.



For more information contact AFSCME at 651-287-0487.

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